

Fall is here!



School, football, and pumpkin spice are sure signs that autumn is here, and soon we will be enjoying a brisk Iowa winter.

As you complete fall lawn care and prepare your drive and walks for snow and ice, please remember:

YOU can help protect storm water quality in Urbandale!

The storm drain in your street is a direct connection to the water in streams, ponds and lakes. Anything that washes off your yard and street runs directly to these waters. This includes: fertilizer, leaves, grass clippings, silt, pet waste, oil, road salt, sand, pesticides, herbicides, detergent, gasoline, antifreeze, garbage, grease, heavy metals, diesel, shrub clippings, rubber particles, wasp spray, paint, rust, planting soil...

Check out helpful tips on the other side!



To Report a Storm Water Concern:
Call 515-278-3950
Email stormwater@urbandale.org

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Check out these tips to keep our surface water healthy.

Fertilize your Yard, not the Streams

- Fertilizer in streams encourages algae growth and may harm fish and wildlife.
- Use P free (27-0-8) fertilizer or P<3. Follow proper application rates and keep fertilizer on the lawn and off the pavement.

Scoop the Poop!

- Pet waste contains phosphorus, harmful bacteria, and possibly parasites.
- Put poop in the toilet or garbage, never in a storm drain or water way.

Leave Leaves on Lawns

- As leaves decompose in streams, they take oxygen that fish and plants need.
- Mulch leaves in place or in your compost pile. Never dump leaves and branches in streams or rake into the street.
- For yard waste, use a “Compost It!” bag or sticker, available at local merchants. For large logs and limbs, call Public Works at 278-3950 to schedule a pickup for a fee.

Snow and Ice

- Salt and sand washed into streams can be very harmful to fish and plant health.
- Follow de-icer directions to apply sparingly. Using more than recommended does not speed up the melting process.
- Sweep up excess sand and salt so it won't wash away into the storm drain.

The choices you make when caring for your home directly affect water quality. Thank you for doing your part to protect Iowa's streams and rivers!



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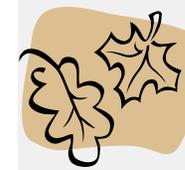
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